

(3) the Company has attempted several times to plug the well, but as of January 28, 2016, those efforts have been unsuccessful;

(4) many residents in the nearby community have reported adverse physical symptoms including dizziness, nausea, and nosebleeds as a result of the natural gas leak, and the continuing emissions from the leak have resulted in the relocation of thousands of people away from their homes and livelihoods;

(5) local schools have temporarily closed, many businesses have been negatively impacted, and regular public services such as mail delivery have also been disrupted;

(6) more than 86,500,000 kilograms of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, have been emitted into the atmosphere, which is—

(A) the equivalent of 2,200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide; or

(B) more greenhouse gas than 468,000 cars emit in 1 year;

(7) agencies of the State of California issued an emergency order on December 10, 2015, prohibiting injection of natural gas into the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility until further authorization; and

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.—Not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall lead and establish an Aliso Canyon Task Force (referred to in this section as the “task force”).

(c) MEMBERSHIP OF TASK FORCE.—In addition to the Secretary, the task force shall be composed of—

(1) 1 representative from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;

(2) 1 representative from the Department of Health and Human Services;

(3) 1 representative from the Environmental Protection Agency;

(4) 1 representative from the Department of the Interior;

(5) 1 representative from the Department of Commerce; and

(6) 1 representative from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) FINAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the task force shall submit a final report that contains the information described in subparagraph (B) to—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(iii) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(iv) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(v) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(vi) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(vii) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(viii) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives;

(ix) the President; and

(x) relevant Federal and State agencies.

(B) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, at a minimum—

(i) an analysis and conclusion of the cause of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak;

(ii) an analysis of measures taken to stop the natural gas leak, with an immediate focus on other, more effective measures that could be taken;

(iii) an assessment of the impact of the natural gas leak on health, safety, the environment, and the economy of the residents and property surrounding Aliso Canyon;

(iv) an analysis of how Federal and State agencies responded to the natural gas leak;

(v) in order to lessen the negative impacts of natural gas leaks, recommendations on how to improve—

(I) the response to a future leak; and

(II) coordination between all appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies in the response to the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak and future natural gas leaks;

(vi) an analysis of the potential for a similar natural gas leak to occur at other underground natural gas storage facilities in the United States;

(vii) recommendations on how to prevent any future natural gas leaks;

(viii) recommendations on whether to continue operations at Aliso Canyon and other facilities in close proximity to residential populations based on an assessment of the risk of a future natural gas leak;

(ix) a recommendation on information that is not currently collected but that would be in the public interest to collect and distribute to agencies and institutions for the continued study and monitoring of natural gas infrastructure in the United States;

(x) an analysis of the impact of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak on wholesale and retail electricity prices; and

(xi) an analysis of the impact of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak on the reliability of the bulk-power system.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The final report under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public in an electronically accessible format.

(3) If, before the final report is submitted under paragraph (1) the task force finds methods to solve the natural gas leak at Aliso Canyon; better protect the affected communities; or finds methods to help prevent other leaks, they must immediately issue such findings to the same entities that are to receive the final report.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3205

(Purpose: To provide for the use of geomatic data in consideration of applications for Federal authorization)

On page 196, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

(d) GEOMATIC DATA.—If a Federal or State department or agency considering an aspect of an application for Federal authorization requires the applicant to submit environmental data, the department or agency shall consider any such data gathered by geomatic techniques, including tools and techniques used in land surveying, remote sensing, cartography, geographic information systems, global navigation satellite systems, photogrammetry, geophysics, geography, or other remote means.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3160

(Purpose: To strike a provision relating to identifying and characterizing methane hydrate resources using remote sensing and seismic data in the Atlantic Ocean Basin)

On page 263, line 5, strike “or the Atlantic Ocean Basin”.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on these amendments en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question occurs on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 3064; 3065, as modified; 3179; 3145; 3174; 3140, as modified; 3156; 3143; 3194, as modified; 3205; and 3160) were agreed to en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I appreciate again the cooperation and the working relationship with my ranking member, as well as her very strong and able team working with mine, as well as the floor staff who have been doing a great job.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, we just cleared several amendments in a bipartisan fashion, working back and forth across the aisle, and I so appreciate our colleagues working so diligently on these tonight. If we want to keep making progress, obviously we have to keep communicating, but I thank everybody involved with getting these amendments done.

To my colleague from Alaska, thanks for her diligence in focusing on these issues. Hopefully we will resolve these issues tomorrow. The cloture motion has been filed, so we need to keep moving forward so that we can resolve these issues by the end of this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3140, AS MODIFIED

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I did want to mention on amendment No. 3140 that I want to thank everybody who worked on that particular amendment tonight. I know tomorrow we are going to have a colloquy continuing the dialogue among all our colleagues who care about these issues as they relate to energy and biomass and making sure we are all continuing to work on this together. I want to point out that there will be a colloquy on that tomorrow.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.